

With Complaints

LANGPORT
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 1904.

LANGPORT: G. H. HEMMEL, THE HERALD PRESS.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS

OF THE

Langport Rural District Council.

GENTLEMEN,—

I have the honour to present my Report for the year ended 31st December, 1904.

Appended you will find the report of the Inspector of Nuisances, and the Tables supplied by the Local Government Board and Home Office. I have done my best to fill these forms correctly, but Table II., from the Local Government Board, cannot be completed owing to the population of the Sub-districts being very uncertain.

VITAL STATISTICS.

In former Reports I have explained that it is impossible to calculate accurately the number of persons in your District, at any given date, owing to the constant migration into, and from, the District, caused by the construction of the new railway. I shall not now mention the details, but simply state that taking into consideration the Births and Deaths that have occurred in the District, the number of men employed on the new line, the probable number of women and children brought into the District, and the smaller number of young men leaving the neighbourhood, I estimated the population to be 13,774 at the middle of 1904.

I have not attempted to estimate the population of each Sub-district; that of Curry Rivel is probably much the same as in 1901, but in the Langport and Somerton Sub-districts there are, without doubt, more persons than at the time of the last census.

THE NUMBER OF BIRTHS REGISTERED IN 1904.
During the year the number registered in each Sub-district, and in the whole of the Langport Rural District, was:—

| | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Langport Sub-district | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 83 |
| Somerton „ | „ | ... | ... | ... | ... | 164 |
| Curry Rivel | „ | ... | ... | ... | ... | 85 |
| Whole District ... | | | | | | 332 |

Of the 332 children, 175 were Boys and 157 Girls. In 1903 the number of Births registered was 349. The average number *per annum* registered in the previous ten years (1894-1903) was 342.

THE BIRTH RATE per 1,000 population was 24·13. In 1903 it was 25·78. The average rate for the ten years preceding 1904 was 24·87.

The rate is low, being smaller than that for eight of the ten years immediately preceding 1904.

THE NUMBER OF DEATHS REGISTERED at all ages, and from all causes, was :—

| | | | | | | |
|-------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Langport Sub-district | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 50 |
| Somerton " " | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 130 |
| Curry Rivel " | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 53 |

| | | | | | | |
|----------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Whole District | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 233 |
|----------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|

In the Workhouse a man from Bristol died from Phthisis.

The average number of Deaths registered per annum during the ten years, 1894-1903, was 216·9 ; in only two of those years was the number larger than in 1904.

THE GENERAL DEATH RATE.—The Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population, at all ages and from all causes, was 16·98. The rate in the previous five years was :—1903, 14·84 ; 1902, 14·9 ; 1901, 15·43 ; 1900, 15·89 ; 1899, 18·23.

The Death Rate for the ten years, 1894-1903, was 15·77 per annum for every 1,000 of population ; in only one year was it higher than in 1904 ; in 1899 it was 18·23 per 1,000 population.

The Birth and Death Rates, taken separately or together, must be considered unsatisfactory. The actual population being doubtful, these rates may be far from correct, but if the number of Births and Deaths during the year 1904 be compared with those in the ten years, 1894-1903, the population question is unimportant. In 1904 there were 332 Births and 233 Deaths registered ; that is 99 more Births than Deaths. During the previous ten years the average was 126 more Births than Deaths. We must not forget, however, that most of the men working on the railway have not wives in the District, whilst they, engaged in work of a dangerous nature, and exposed to every change in the weather, are rather more likely to die than are the ordinary inhabitants.

I am not aware how many of the Deaths were those of navvies and others working on the line.

Twelve Deaths occurred in the Workhouse. Ten of the deceased persons formerly belonged to the Somerton Sub-district, and one to the Curry Rivel Sub-district ; the other was the Bristol man before mentioned. Seven of the twelve died from old age.

THE NUMBER OF DEATHS OF INFANTS under One year of age registered in 1904 was 30. The average for the previous ten years was 35·3 ; in 1903 the number was 38.

THE INFANTILE DEATH RATE (per 1,000 Births) was 90·36. The average for the previous ten years was 100.

THE NUMBER OF DEATHS from the seven principal ZYMOTIC DISEASES was eight, four being caused by Measles, three by Diphtheria, and one by Diarrhœa.

THE ZYMOTIC DEATH RATE was .58. In 1903 it was .73; in 1902, .74; in 1901, .59.

In 1904 three Deaths were caused by a Notifiable Disease—Diphtheria. In 1903 the same Disease caused one Death.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED.

DIPHTHERIA, including Membranous Croup.

| | 1904. | 1903. | 1902. | 1901. |
|--------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Langport Sub-district... | 1 | 0 | 5 | 1 |
| Somerton " " ... | 27 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Curry Rivel " " ... | 0 | 6 | 4 | 2 |
| | | | | |
| Whole District ... | 28 | 7 | 9 | 3 |

ERYSIPELAS.

| | | | | |
|--------------------------|---|---|---|---|
| Langport Sub-district... | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Somerton " " ... | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| Curry Rivel " " ... | 6 | 1 | 2 | 0 |
| | | | | |
| Whole District ... | 9 | 3 | 4 | 2 |

SCARLET FEVER.

| | | | | |
|--------------------------|----|----|----|----|
| Langport Sub-district... | 0 | 3 | 1 | 10 |
| Somerton " " ... | 5 | 8 | 13 | 34 |
| Curry Rivel " " ... | 10 | 2 | 9 | 1 |
| | | | | |
| Whole District ... | 15 | 13 | 23 | 45 |

ENTERIC FEVER.

| | | | | |
|--------------------------|---|---|---|---|
| Langport Sub-district... | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Somerton " " ... | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| Curry Rivel " " ... | 0 | 0 | 5 | 2 |
| | | | | |
| Whole District ... | 3 | 0 | 5 | 6 |

PUERPERAL FEVER.

| | | | | |
|--------------------------|---|---|---|---|
| Langport Sub-district... | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Somerton " " ... | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Curry Rivel " " ... | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | | | | |
| Whole District ... | 0 | 2 | 0 | 1 |

ALL NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

| | 1904. | 1903. | 1902. | 1901. |
|---------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Langport Sub-district ... | 2 | 4 | 7 | 14 |
| Somerton ... | 37 | 12 | 19 | 38 |
| Curry Rivel ... | 16 | 9 | 20 | 5 |
| | | | | |
| Whole District | 55 | 25 | 46 | 57 |

REMARKS ON THE CAUSES OF DEATH AND INCIDENCE OF DISEASE.

MEASLES.—This Disease has appeared in many of the parishes in your District. The number of children affected has been large; several Schools have been closed on account of the many families infected. Four Deaths were certified to be due to Measles; two in the Curry Rivel, one in the Langport, and one in the Somerton Sub-district. Measles is frequently considered a trivial complaint, from which all children must suffer earlier or later, a Disease without danger to life—immediately or indirectly. The idea is a mistaken one; it is true that under certain conditions, such as warm, dry weather, a mild type of the Disease, and proper nursing, many children may be infected and all recover. Occasionally the Disease assumes a malignant form, and is almost as dangerous as Small-pox, especially to young children, in fact, is more deadly than Small-pox to *vaccinated* children. Even under the most favourable circumstances, many deaths occur every year in this country. It is a Disease which is very commonly complicated by some Lung trouble, Bronchitis or Broncho-pneumonia being usually the actual cause of Death. Unfortunately, the actual germ, virus, or other cause, which produces Measles has not yet been discovered, and, until the real cause is found, the provision of a prophylactic antitoxin is impossible, unless, as in the case of Small-pox, a protective be discovered by some happy accident.

SCARLET FEVER.—In 1904 fifteen cases were notified, five in the Somerton, and ten in the Curry Rivel Sub-district. None of the cases had a fatal termination. The first case notified (20th Oct.) was in Curry Mallett. When I visited the place I was informed that children of another family in the village had suffered from the Disease. I could not discover how Scarlet Fever was introduced into the village, even after visiting the family in which it was supposed the earliest cases occurred: probably it was brought by some person from another District. A child of the family said to be first infected was notified to be suffering from the Disease on the 8th of November. On the 23rd December a youth of 18 years in Curry Mallett was certified to be infected. There probably had been several unrecognised or concealed cases in the village. It was impossible to trace the source of infection in any of the cases mentioned. Four children in one family at Beer Crocombe suffered, but were not seen by a medical man until the process of desquamation was almost complete. No other family in the village was infected.

A child in Curry Rivel had the Disease. It is probable that she was infected by some person from Curry Mallett, or from the Taunton District. Her brother attends the Langport Grammar School. The Disease affected one family, two boys of which attend that School, but as no cases occurred among the other boys in the School, I think it highly improbable that the girl was indirectly infected from that source.

Two children in Oath, without doubt, caught the Disease in Aller School.

Of the five cases which occurred in the Somerton Sub-district, three were in one family at Bere, Aller, and two in different houses in Aller village. Undoubtedly the first person affected at Bere contracted the Disease in Taunton, and there is little doubt that the children in the village of Aller were directly or indirectly infected from Bere.

Although Scarlet Fever has not in the past year caused a single death, it has occasioned much anxiety, and, in one way or another, has been very expensive to those in whose house it has appeared. The "out-workers," people doing work in their own homes for various firms, especially feel the loss of money which might have been earned had it been possible to send the infected children to an Isolation Hospital. In some cases, no doubt, a part of the money that could have been earned would have been devoted to the maintenance of the children whilst in the Hospital.

DIPHThERIA.—In 1904, twenty-eight cases of this Disease were notified. One occurred on Heathen's Hill, in the Langport Sub-district, and the other twenty-seven in the Somerton Sub-district.

I could not discover how the child first-mentioned was infected, but it was probably from outside the Langport District. This child died. Two Deaths occurred in the Somerton Sub-district, one on Somerton Hill, age 3 years; one at Northfields, Somerton, age 8 years.

In the Somerton Sub-district the first case was at West Street, Somerton—notification received 14th April. The Disease was without doubt contracted in, or near London. The second case was that of a lad in Barton St. David, who was infected in Lovington, where he had been working, and where several cases had appeared; this case was notified on the 30th of May.

Both the cases mentioned above could be properly isolated in their own homes, every precaution was taken, and nobody else was infected. I believe that the epidemic which has since occurred was not caused by infection spreading from either of these persons.

On the 6th of August I was notified that two cases of Diphtheria had appeared in Babcary. I visited the place on the same day, and found one of the sufferers was a drover, who had recently passed through several of the Districts in the country. He doubtless contracted the Disease on one of his journeys, and was, in all probability, the person who brought the Disease to the District, unwittingly of course, but with a truly disastrous effect. The other person notified on the 6th of August was a child, living in a cottage close to the house occupied by the drover. Later in August two other children in the cottage suffered from the Disease. During the same month a child, of another family in Babcary, was infected; one on Somerton Hill died from the Disease. The child on Somerton Hill had not, as far as I could learn, been exposed to infection in the district, unless, as is possible, it came in contact with some contaminated person at the Long Sutton Sports. The Babcary child was infected either in Bridgwater or, indirectly, by the children who first suffered in Babcary.

During September twelve cases were notified, two in Babcary, in different houses; one on Somerton Hill, in the house in which the death had occurred; and the others in Somerton. Four families in that town were affected, and one death occurred. As regards the cases in Babcary, infection by previously reported persons was almost certain. In Somerton, one family was probably infected from Somerton Hill; the others, directly or indirectly, through a visitor from Babcary, who, although not known to have had the complaint, lived next door to infected persons.

In October, a case appeared in Pitney, undoubtedly contracted from the Somerton Hill family; and another in Somerton in a previously infected house.

In November and early in December two children in one family at Long Sutton were infected. The Disease was brought from the house on Somerton Hill, the mother of the children who had there suffered having visited the Long Sutton cottage. Later in December two men, who slept in the same room, at Charlton Mackrell, had the Disease. They were probably infected in Babcary, but I could not discover how or when either of them contracted the Disease. A child in Charlton Adam was, without doubt, infected in Babcary, or by a person from that village.

If an Isolation Hospital had been provided, the Epidemic could have been checked when the Disease first appeared in the District, but now it is impossible in many cases to discover how the Disease was contracted. Probably persons have had a mild attack, and unknowingly infected others, who have suffered from the Disease in a more severe form.

Since the 1st of January, 1905, twenty-one cases of the Disease have been notified; and six deaths have been caused by Diphtheria.

ERYSIPELAS.—Nine cases were notified, one in the Langport, two in the Somerton, and six in the Curry Rivel Sub-district. There was not a death caused by this Disease. Undoubtedly, Erysipelas was a very serious Disease, and frequently caused death, before the days of antiseptic and aseptic surgery, but at present causes fewer deaths than does Measles. The Disease rarely becomes epidemic, and, in my opinion, should not now be included in the notifiable diseases.

ENTERIC FEVER.—In Babcary a woman and two of her children suffered from this Disease. The water used was very impure, but I could not discover how the bacilli, which cause the Disease, were brought to the village. The well was closed, but recently the Council has allowed it to be re-opened, and the water used for purposes other than drinking. In my opinion, the water should not be used for any purpose; unless boiled for a considerable time, it may, if it still contains the infectious germs, be the means of causing the Disease in other persons, even if it be used only for washing floors and clothing.

In 1903 no case was notified, in 1902 there were five, and in 1901 six cases.

EPIDEMIC INFLUENZA caused six deaths, three of the deceased persons being over 65 years of age (66, 82, 84); the other three were not young, having attained the age of 56, 62, and 64 years. One case was uncomplicated, three had lung, and two intestinal complications. Five of the six deaths occurred in the first half of the year. This Disease appears to be less fatal than it was a few years ago, except when persons of an advanced age are affected.

PHTHISIS.—The deaths caused by this Disease in 1904 and the three previous years were :—

| | 1904. | 1903. | 1902. | 1901. |
|--------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Langport Sub-district... | 4 | 0 | 9 | 7 |
| Somerton „ „ ... | 6 | 7 | 5 | 5 |
| Curry Rivel „ „ ... | 3 | 2 | 3 | 1 |
| Non-Residents ... | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Total Deaths ... | 14 | 9 | 18 | 13 |

The number of Deaths is above the average for the previous three years, but below that of the ten years (1891-1900) preceding 1901, when it was 16·6 for the whole District, 5·3 each in the Langport and Curry Rivel Sub-districts, and 6 in the Somerton Sub-district. Taking into consideration the over-crowded condition of a large part of the District, the number of Deaths which occurred in 1904 was not excessive.

I wish it were possible to convince those suffering from the Disease, and those who come in contact with them, that Phthisis is infectious, and that due precautions should be taken to prevent other persons becoming infected.

OTHER TUBERCULAR DISEASES caused eight Deaths. Meningitis was the cause of six Deaths, Peritonitis and Disease of the Hip-joint each of one.

CANCER.—This Disease caused 17 deaths, eleven in the Somerton, three in the Langport, and three in the Curry Rivel Sub-district. In one case the Disease affected the tongue, in one the upper jaw. Three persons died from Cancer in the breast, three others had the Disease in the stomach, five persons had a malignant growth in some part of the intestine, one in the liver, and three in the genito-urinary organs.

In previous reports I have stated that this disease has become more common in your District during the last few years, especially in the Somerton Sub-district.

I hoped this year to be able to compare the Cancer mortality of the Langport Rural District with that of the whole of England, but have been unable to obtain the necessary data. I am able, however, to compare the deaths from Cancer in the Langport District with those which occurred in the county of Somerset in 1900 (incomplete), 1901, 1902 and 1903.

Deaths due to Cancer in six quinquennial periods from 1st January, 1870 :—

TABLE A.

| | Number of Deaths in each Period of Five Years. | | | | Average Number of Deaths Annually in each Period | | | |
|-----------|---|--------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|---|--------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| | Langport Sub-district | Somerton Sub-district | Curry River Sub-district | Whole District | Langport Sub-district | Somerton Sub-district | Curry River Sub-district | Whole District |
| 1870-1874 | 5 | ... | 18 | ... | 9 | ... | 32 | 1.0 ... 3.6 ... 1.8 ... 6.4 |
| 1875-1879 | 4 | ... | 18 | ... | 10 | ... | 32 | .8 ... 3.6 ... 2.0 ... 6.4 |
| 1880-1884 | 8 | ... | 18 | ... | 13 | ... | 39 | 1.6 ... 3.6 ... 2.6 ... 7.8 |
| 1885-1889 | 12 | ... | 19 | ... | 11 | ... | 42 | 2.4 ... 3.8 ... 2.2 ... 8.4 |
| 1890-1894 | 11 | ... | 31 | ... | 9 | ... | 51 | 2.2 ... 6.2 ... 1.8 ... 10.2 |
| 1895-1899 | 8 | ... | 32 | ... | 14 | ... | 54 | 1.6 ... 6.4 ... 2.8 ... 10.8 |
| | 48 | 136 | 66 | 250 | | | | |

THE DEATHS CAUSED BY CANCER SINCE 1900.

TABLE B.

| LANGPORT RURAL DISTRICT. | | | | | | | | COUNTY OF SOMERSET. | | | | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|-----|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|------|-----|--------|-----|------|
| | Langport Sub-district | Somerton Sub-district | Curry Rivel Sub-district | Whole District | | Rural Districts | Urban Districts | Whole County | | | | | |
| 1900 | ... | 3 | ... | 12 | ... | 3 | ... | 18 | 143* | ... | 93 | ... | 236* |
| 1901 | ... | 2 | ... | 13 | ... | 3 | ... | 18 | 191 | ... | 112 | ... | 303 |
| 1902 | ... | 3 | ... | 7 | ... | 4 | ... | 14 | 202 | ... | 107 | ... | 309 |
| 1903 | ... | 4 | ... | 15 | ... | 1 | ... | 20 | 216 | ... | 115 | ... | 331 |
| <hr/> | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Aver'ge for four years | 3.0 | | ... | 11.75 | ... | 2.15 | ... | 17.5 | 188 | | 106.75 | | 294 |
| <hr/> | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1904 | ... | 3 | ... | 11 | ... | 3 | ... | 17 | ... | | ... | | ... |

THE DEATHS FROM CANCER PER 100 TOTAL DEATHS.

TABLE C.

| LANGPORT RURAL DISTRICT. | | | | | | | | | COUNTY OF SOMERSET. | | | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|------|------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|------|------|------|------|
| | Langport Sub-district | Somerton Sub-district | Curry Rivel Sub-district | Whole District | | | Rural Districts | Urban Districts | Whole County | | | | |
| 1900 | ... | 6.8 | ... | 10.62 | ... | 5.17 | ... | 8.37 | 3.92*... | 4.12 | ... | 4.0* | |
| 1901 | ... | 5.65 | ... | 13.13 | ... | 5.17 | ... | 8.69 | 5.78 | ... | 5.62 | ... | 5.71 |
| 1902 | ... | 3.77 | ... | 7.36 | ... | 7.54 | ... | 6.93 | 6.28 | ... | 4.95 | ... | 5.78 |
| 1903 | ... | 8.69 | ... | 15.62 | ... | 1.88 | ... | 9.95 | 6.67 | ... | 5.8 | ... | 6.35 |
| <hr/> | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Aver'ge for four years } | | 6.227 | 11.862 | ... | 4.94 | ... | 8.485 | 5.655 | 5.122 | 5.46 | | | |
| <hr/> | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1904 | ... | 6.0 | ... | 8.59 | ... | 5.55 | ... | 7.32 | ... | ... | ... | | |

*The returns from three of the Rural Districts were incomplete in 1900.

Before commenting on the Tables given above, I must briefly refer to remarks made in former Reports.

In 1897 the areas of the Langport and Somerton Sub-districts were altered, but in *Table A* each Death has been apportioned to the Sub-district in which it would have been registered, had the present conditions existed.

In the early years of the series there were doubtful, or inexact, entries in the registers, but, even if all the doubtful "tumours" which caused death were cases of Cancer, the difference for the whole district would have been less than one death a year.

Whilst the population has decreased, the number of deaths from Cancer has increased, especially in the Somerton Sub-district, which, on the whole, is on a higher level than the other Sub-districts.

It is unnecessary to make many remarks on the Tables B and C; they tell their own tale plainly enough. The percentage of total deaths due to Cancer was, in each year, higher in the Langport Rural District than in the whole county, and, in most of the years, the Cancer percentage in the Somerton Sub-district was very much above that of the county.

In 1904 the Somerton Sub-district had more than its proper share of Cancer deaths, although the excess was less than in the previous year.

BRONCHITIS (including Acute and Chronic Bronchitis and Broncho-pneumonia).

| | | | | 1904. | 1903. | 1902. | 1901. |
|---------------------|-----|-----|-----|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Under 1 year | ... | ... | ... | 12 | 6 | 10 | 3 |
| 1 and under 5 years | ... | ... | ... | 0 | 0 | 4 | 1 |
| 5 " 15 " | ... | ... | ... | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| 15 " 25 " | ... | ... | ... | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 25 " 65 " | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 0 | 1 | 2 |
| 65 years and over | ... | ... | ... | 6 | 12 | 9 | 7 |
| | | | | <hr/> 20 | <hr/> 18 | <hr/> 24 | <hr/> 14 |

Four of the Deaths in 1904 occurred in the Langport, twelve in the Somerton, and four in the Curry Rivel Sub-district. Last year I surmised that infants and young children had been more carefully protected, and that aged persons had suffered more frequently than usual from Bronchitis, owing to the almost constant damp condition of the soil and air. In 1904, the air and soil were dry and the number of Deaths of infants was double, whilst that of aged persons was half what it was in 1903.

PNEUMONIA caused five deaths; two in the Langport and three in the Somerton Sub-district. This disease caused 9 Deaths in 1903, 7 in 1902, and 4 in 1901.

PLEURISY did not cause a Death. It caused one in 1903, none in 1902, and one in 1901.

OTHER DISEASES OF THE RESPIRATORY ORGANS. —

One child, aged 9 days, was certified to have died in the Langport Sub-district, from Congestion of the Lungs; and five persons in the Somerton district from Asthma, their ages being 55, 62, 70, 77, and 82 years.

CIRRHOSIS OF THE LIVER caused one Death in the Langport, and two in the Somerton Sub-district.

DISEASES OF THE HEART caused 37 Deaths, five of which occurred in the Langport, twenty-three in the Somerton, and nine in the Curry Rivel Sub-district. In 1903 there were 31; in 1902, 34; and in 1901, 37 Deaths from various forms of Heart Disease.

ACCIDENTS caused seven Deaths. Two were in the Langport, two in the Somerton, and three in the Curry Rivel Sub-district.

A child, aged 2 years, fell into one of the Langport sewer ditches and was drowned. A man, aged 46, had the base of his skull fractured by a stone that had fallen from a crane in a quarry. A woman, aged 87, was drowned in a pit of water. A man, aged 40, was killed by a passing train, near Langport Station.

The other three Deaths occurred in the construction of the new railway; one man being killed by the fall of a piece of timber, another by the explosion of a charge of blasting powder, whilst the third was run over by an engine and trucks.

SUICIDES.—Two men, one at Kingsbury, and one at High Ham, cut their throats; and one in Somerton hanged himself. The three persons were, by the coroner's juries, considered to be insane.

DEBILITY FROM OLD AGE caused 28 Deaths. One person was 94, one 92, and one 90 at the time of Death, two were 89, and ten others 80 or more. The youngest persons certified to have died from Senile Decay were two aged 72 years. The average age at Death was rather more than 81 years and 10 months.

Of the 33 Deaths due to **ALL OTHER CAUSES**, thirteen were from Kidney Disease.

HOUSE ACCOMMODATION.

In my last Annual Report I stated that those towns and villages near the new line were much overcrowded, their condition is certainly no better now. Unless a large number of houses, huts, or tents were erected, it would be impossible to properly accommodate all the men working on the line. Although there is yet plenty of room for improvement, I am pleased to be able to state that the cottages in the District are, on the whole, less bad than when my first Report was written; many of the old hovels have been demolished, others are now uninhabited. Several new cottages have been erected, but there still remain many houses that are damp, dirty, badly ventilated, and inconvenient, very few of them having any fireplace in the bedrooms.

I trust that the Council will insist upon all new houses being properly constructed.

At the present time, owing to the abnormal congestion of parts of the district, and to the want of Bye laws, overcrowding cannot be prevented. I have had several complaints from the wives of navvies about the lack of Accommodation; if told, they should not have come to the district until a suitable house was procured, they ask how their husbands and sons could otherwise have been cared for. The truth is that the contractors should have erected a number of huts for those whom they employ.

THE DISPOSAL OF SEWAGE.

The Sewage Farm near Somerton has been the cause of some complaint but, on the whole, has been satisfactory.

The disposal of the Sewage of the town of Langport is a difficult matter. At present most of the Sewage finds its way into a ditch on the north side of the town, either directly or through other ditches which pass under the main street. These cross ditches can now be flooded only from the upper or south end and at those times when the backwater is sufficiently full to provide enough water for the purpose.

A scheme for the better flushing of the cross-ditches has been proposed. It consists of (1) the provision of an oil-engine to work a pump, already in position, which can force water into all the ditches from the outlet of the main ditch; (2) the fixing of flood-gates at the north end of each of the cross-ditches. This would enable those having control over the ditches to fill them from the lower end when necessary. I consider that the proposed alterations would be a great improvement.

I am of opinion that the disposal of Sewage through water-flushed pipes would be impracticable in Langport, which place is mostly on a level with, or slightly above, the river.

Earth-closets would be suitable for Langport and many other places in the District, but there exists a great prejudice against them.

In other parts of the District cess-pits (usually too large), middens, and ditches are used as receptacles for waste. In some cases these have been improved during the past year.

WATER SUPPLY.

The Somerton supply appears to be still good and plentiful.

The supply from Barrington gives satisfaction to all except the people at the east end of the system in Langport Westover, who, it seems, rarely drink this water on account of its flat, disagreeable flavour. The water stagnates in the pipe between Curry Rivel and Langport Westover, and should be allowed to escape from the lower end of the main far more frequently than at present, or to flow constantly through a small outlet pipe.

The water from Compton Durville is now laid on in the Kingsbury, Lambrook, and Langport parishes. Probably several weeks must elapse before the water is fit for dietetic purposes, but already has been found useful in the houses connected with the main.

In other parts of the District water is obtained from wells, surface springs, and, in Oath, from the river.

The wells, as a rule, are insufficiently covered, and not properly protected from surface pollution

At last it is probable that something will be done to provide good water for the use of the people in Wagg Drove and the adjacent part of Huish Episcopi. Samples of water from two surface springs one open well, and two wells provided with pumps were recently examined by the County Analyst.

One of the surface springs was polluted, the other was stated to give good water. The samples were taken under the most favourable circumstances, after a long spell of dry weather. Anyone viewing the situation of these springs would be forced to acknowledge that, under the present conditions, these places are not suitable sources of drinking water. If a little money be spent in protecting the spring in one case, and in digging a well close by in the other, the much discussed Wagg water question will, I think, be fairly satisfactorily settled. The water from one of the pumps was badly polluted with sewage. The other pump and the open well gave good water.

THE DAIRIES.

Only five persons have been registered as purveyors of milk. I know there are others who sell milk, and hope all will be registered early this year, that in my next Annual Report I may be able to give a full account of the conditions existing in these places. At present the precautions taken to prevent contamination of the milk are as a rule, insufficient, neither the cows nor the milkers being clean, and the place where the operation is performed often very dirty.

THE SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.

There is little improvement to report. One small Slaughter-house, close to the road, has been replaced by a larger one in a better situation; otherwise these places are in the same condition as last year.

Most of the Slaughter-houses are too near dwellings, sometimes under the same roof.

ISOLATION AND DISINFECTION.

I approach this subject with feelings akin to dread. The subject is so very important that it should demand the most serious consideration. Unfortunately, at the present time, it is surrounded by difficulties so great that I feel it impossible for me to state the facts, in such a manner as to so fully impress you all with its gravity, that, when considering the provision of an Isolation Hospital, the necessity or otherwise, of such an institution shall alone occupy your thoughts, all side questions be neglected, all prejudice thrown aside, and all preconceived ideas forgotten.

I shall try to show you why I have urged you so often and earnestly to take steps in this matter.

The first and chief use of an Isolation Hospital is to prevent those infected from contaminating the healthy.

If the first few persons to suffer from Infectious Disease in a district can be quickly separated from the healthy, and a careful watch

kept on those who may possibly have been infected, the disease can soon be stamped out, but if not restrained in its early stage nobody can tell how far it will spread, how long it will continue in the district, how many will suffer, or how many will die.

If the first case, or cases, occur in a house of moderate size the patient can generally be properly isolated at home. But how often can this be done in the cottages of your district? In how many of the cottages is it possible to entirely separate one person from the other inmates? Even if it be possible to devote a room to the use of the invalid, how often is it that someone, a mother, or a sister, can spend all her time attending on the sick person, separating herself, as is often absolutely necessary, from the rest of the family? How often will the "nurse," when it is not necessary for her to remain entirely separate, provide herself with an overall and always don and doff it at the proper time? How often are cups, spoons, and other things properly purified to prevent infection? How often are the instructions as to the disposal of the secretions from the nose and mouth, and of other waste matters followed? These questions all refer to precautions which affect the Public Health. Answer them and ask yourselves what, beside an Isolation Hospital, will ensure the safety of the community.

The second object of an Isolation Hospital is to enable those affected to obtain better treatment.

By better treatment I do not refer to medical attendance, but to accommodation, nursing, and dieting.

In how many cottages is there a bedroom containing air-space sufficient for a case of Infectious Disease? In how many of the bedrooms can the air be properly warmed whilst the necessary ventilation is maintained? How many of the poorer people are capable of nursing even an ordinary case of illness, to say nothing of one in which extra care and knowledge are requisite? In how many cases can the full diet ordered be provided? How often is food totally unsuitable given to such patients? I ask you to answer these questions candidly, and consider whether this quite secondary, but surely important, use of an Isolation Hospital be not an additional reason for providing one.

There are a few more points I should like to mention.

Dangerous Infectious Diseases are peculiarly liable to complications during, and after the acute stage, which may cause death or permanent injury, and which with proper care may, in most cases, be avoided.

Small shopkeepers, dairymen, and "outworkers," suffer much less when one of these diseases exists on the premises.

Were an Isolation Hospital erected the closure of schools would be very rarely necessary.

Finally, Gentlemen, I ask you to seriously consider whether the money expended on an Isolation Hospital would not be well spent when the benefits to be derived are so great.

A Steam Disinfection would be a necessary adjunct to the Hospital but, beyond mentioning it, I shall now say nothing on this subject.

THE FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

Should fire break out during working hours in one of the Factories I believe it would be easy for all those employed to escape in safety.

In some of the Workshops there were minor defects, but the owners promised to remedy these at once. None of them were really dirty, although in some the process of sweeping or dusting had not been thoroughly carried out. The Bakehouses are more frequently lime-washed, the ventilation is not always perfect, but in no case is it very bad, the benches and ovens appeared to be well looked after.

OUTWORKERS.—Only five lists were received, although I am sure more than five firms employ outworkers living in the district. During the present year I hope it will be possible to obtain more complete returns.

BYE-LAWS.

The Slaughter-houses and Dairies cannot be properly controlled without Bye-laws. The Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops Orders (1835-1886) give certain powers to the Sanitary Authority over the premises in which cows are stalled or milk stored. They also regulate the employment of persons suffering from infectious disease. The actual process of milking under normal conditions is not mentioned under the orders.

Bye-laws are also needed to insure the proper disposal of house refuse, and to prevent heaps of stable and cow manure being deposited close to a public road.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

A. R. NICHOLLS.

INSPECTOR OF NUISANCES REPORT.

SOMERTON, SOMERSET, 31st December, 1904.

To A. R. Nicholls, Esq., M.O.H.

DEAR SIR,—Appended is a summary of the work done by me for the year ending 31st December, 1904, as Inspector of Nuisances for the Langport Union Rural District.

| | | | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Number of premises inspected | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 194 |
| „ re-inspections... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 249 |
| „ nuisances abated | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 74 |
| „ cess-pits cleansed or repaired | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 19 |
| „ ditches or water-courses cleansed | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 14 |
| „ drains cleansed or repaired... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 20 |
| „ houses disinfected | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 17 |
| „ slaughter-houses inspected | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 19 |
| „ connections with the Council's water-mains enforced | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| „ wells closed by order of the Council | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 |

I am, dear sir,

Yours obediently,

JOHN WYATT, Junr.

TABLE I.

VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1904 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.
 Name of District—LANGPORT RURAL.

| YEAR. | Population estimated to Middle of each Year. | BIRTHS. | | TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT. | | | | | | Deaths of Non-residents registered in Public Institutions in the District. | Net Deaths at all Ages belonging to the Dis. Dist. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| | | Number. | Rate. ° | Under 1 Year of Age. | At all Ages. | | Total Deaths in Public Institutions in the District. | Deaths of Non-residents registered in Public Institutions in the District. | Number. | | Rate. ° | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | Number. | Rate per 1,000 Births registered. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 | 2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|---------|-------|-------|------|--------|-------|-------|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| 1902 | 13,324 | 305 | 22.5 | 29 | 95.08 | 202 | 14.9 | 9 | 1 | 201 | 15.08 |
| 1903 | 13,536 | 349 | 25.78 | 38 | 108.38 | 201 | 14.84 | 5 | 0 | 201 | 14.84 |
| Averages for years 1894-1903 | 13754.9 | 342.2 | 24.87 | 35.3 | 100.0 | 216.9 | 15.77 | 8.7 | ... | ... | ... |
| 1904 | 13,774 | 332 | 24.13 | 30 | 90.36 | 233 | 16.98 | 12 | 1 | 232 | 16.34 |

* Rates in Columns 4, 8, and 13 calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

NOTE.—The deaths to be included in Column 7 of this Table are the whole of those registered during the year as having actually occurred within the district or division. The deaths to be included in Column 12 are the number in Column 7, corrected by the subtraction of the number in Column 10 and the addition of the number in Column 11.

By the term "Non-residents" is meant persons brought into the district on account of sickness or infirmity, and dying in public institutions there; and by the term "Residents" is meant persons who have been taken out of the district on account of sickness or infirmity, and have died in public institutions elsewhere.

The "Public institutions" to be taken into account for the purposes of these Tables are those into which persons are habitually received on account of sickness or infirmity, such as hospitals, workhouses and lunatic asylums. A list of Institutions in respect of the deaths in which corrections have been made should be given on the back of this Table.

Area of District in acres }
(exclusive of area }
covered by water.) }
59,410.

Total population at all ages, 13,446.

Number of inhabited houses, 3,224.

Average number of persons per house, 4.16.

At
Census of
1901.

VITAL STATISTICS OF SEPARATE LOCALITIES IN 1904 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

Name of District.—LANGPORT RURAL DISTRICT.

17

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-----|------|------|------|-----|------|-------|-------|------|------|------|------|-----|
| 1900 ... | ... | 3063 | 68 | 44 | 7 | 6596 | 172 | 113 | 11 | 3339 | 103 | 58 | 13 |
| 1901 ... | ... | 3010 | 67 | 50 | 8 | 6563 | 169 | 99 | 9 | 3840 | 100 | 53 | 6 |
| 1902 ... | ... | 2968 | 73 | 53 | 5 | 6543 | 144 | 95 | 19 | 3813 | 88 | 53 | 5 |
| 1903 ... | ... | ? | 62 | 46 | 10 | ? | 196 | 96 | 15 | ? | 91 | 59 | 13 |
| Averages of) Years 1894 } to 1903. | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1904 ... | ... | ? | 89.7 | 57.3 | 9.5 | ? | 152.6 | 100.2 | 14.5 | ? | 99.9 | 59.3 | 9.1 |
| | | ? | 83 | 50 | 5 | ? | 164 | 129 | 19 | ? | 85 | 53 | 6 |

NOTES.—(a) The separate localities adopted for this table should be areas of which the populations are obtainable from the census returns, such as wards, parishes or groups of parishes, or registration sub-districts. Block 1 may, if desired, be used for the whole district; and blocks 2, 3, etc., for the several localities. In small districts without recognised divisions of known population this Table need not be filled up.

(b) Deaths of residents occurring in public institutions beyond the district are to be included in sub-columns *c* of this table, and those of non-residents registered in public institutions in the district excluded. (See note on Table I. as to meaning of terms "resident" and "non-resident.")

(c) Deaths of residents occurring in public institutions whether within or without the district, are to be allotted to the respective localities according to the addresses of the deceased.

(d) Care should be taken that the gross totals of the several columns in this Table respectively equal the corresponding totals for the whole districts in Tables I and IV.; thus, the totals of sub-columns *a*, *b*, and *c* should agree with the figures for the year in the columns 2, 3, and 12, respectively, of Table I.; the gross total of the sub-columns *c* should agree with the total of column 2 in Table IV., and the gross total of sub-columns *d* with the total of column 3 in Table IV.

TABLE III.
CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED
DURING THE YEAR 1904.

Name of District—LANGPORT RURAL.

| Notifiable Disease. | Cases Notified in whole District. | | | | | | Langport Sub-district. | Somerton Sub-district. | Curry Rivel Sub-district. |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------|---------|----------|--------------|--------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| | At all Ages. | At Ages+—Years. | | | | | | | |
| | | Under 1. | 1 to 5. | 5 to 15. | 15 to 25. | 25 to 65. | | | |
| Small-pox | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Cholera | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Diphtheria | 27 | 1 | 7 | 12 | 2 | 5 | ... | 27 | ... |
| Membranous Croup... | 1 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... |
| Erysipelas | 9 | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | 7 | 1 | 2 | 6 |
| Scarlet Fever | 15 | ... | ... | 12 | 3 | ... | ... | 5 | 10 |
| Typhus Fever | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Enteric Fever | 3 | ... | ... | 2 | 1 | ... | ... | 3 | ... |
| Relapsing Fever | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Continued Fever | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Puerperal Fever | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Plague | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Totals | 55 | 1 | 7 | 28 | 7 | 12 | 2 | 37 | 16 |

NOTES.—The localities adopted for this table should be the same as those in Tables II. and IV.

State in space below the name of the isolation hospital, if any, to which residents in the district, suffering from infectious disease, are usually sent. Mark (H) the locality in which it is situated, or if not within the district, state where it is situated, and in what district. Mark (W) the locality in which a workhouse is situated.

† These age columns for notifications should be filled up in all cases where the Medical Officer of Health, by inquiry or otherwise, has obtained the necessary information.

Isolation Hospital not yet provided.

NOTES.—(a) In this Table all deaths of "Residents" occurring in public institutions, whether within or without the district, are to be *included* with the other deaths in the columns for the several age groups (columns 2-8). They are also, in columns 9-15, to be *included* among the deaths in their respective "Localities" according to the previous addresses of the deceased as given by the Registrars. Deaths of "Non-residents" occurring in public institutions in the district are in like manner to be *excluded* from columns 2-8 and 9-15 of this Table.

(b) See notes on Table I. as to the meaning of "Residents" and "Non-residents," and as to the "Public Institutions" to be taken into account for the purposes of these Tables. The "Localities" should be the same as those in Tables II. and III.

(c) All deaths occurring in public institutions situated within the district, whether of "Residents" or of "Non-residents," are, in addition to being dealt with as in note (a), to be entered in the last column of this Table. The total number in this column should equal the figures for the year in column 9, Table I.

(d) The total deaths in the several "Localities" in columns 9-15 of this Table should equal those for the year in the same localities in Table II., sub-columns c. The total deaths at all ages in column 2 of this Table should equal the gross total of columns 9-15, and the figures for the year in column 12 of Table I.

(e) Under the heading of "Diarrhoea" are to be included deaths certified as from diarrhoea, alone or in combination with some other cause of ill-defined nature; and also deaths certified as from

Epidemic enteritis;

Zymotic enteritis;

Epidemic diarrhoea. Summer diarrhoea;

Dysentery and dysenteric diarrhoea;

Choleraic diarrhoea, cholera, cholera nostras

(in the absence of Asiatic cholera).

Under the heading of "Enteritis" are to be included those certified as from Gastro-enteritis, Muco-enteritis, and Gastric catarrh, unless from information obtained by enquiry from the certifying practitioner or otherwise, the Medical Officer of Health should have reason for including such deaths, especially those of infants, under the specific term "Diarrhoea." Deaths from diarrhoea secondary to some other well-defined disease should be included under the latter.

Under the headings of "Cancer" and "Puerperal fever" should be included all registered deaths from causes comprised within these general terms.

In recording the facts under the various headings of Tables I., II., III and IV., attention has been given to the notes on the Tables.

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, LAUNDRIES, WORKPLACES & HOMEWORK

1.—INSPECTION.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

| Premises. | Number of | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------|------------------|---------------|
| | Inspections. | Written Notices. | Prosecutions. |
| Factories | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| (Including Factory Laundries.) | | | |
| Workshops | 34 | 0 | 0 |
| (Including Workshop Laundries.) | | | |
| Workplaces | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| Homeworkers' Premises | 10 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 52 | 0 | 0 |

2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

| Particulars. | Number of Defects. | | | Number of Prosecutions. |
|--|--------------------|----------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| | Found. | Remedied | Referred to H.M. Inspector. | |
| <i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—</i> ² | | | | |
| Want of cleanliness | 3 | 3 | ... | 0 |
| Want of ventilation | ... | ... | ... | 0 |
| Overcrowding | ... | ... | ... | 0 |
| Want of drainage of floors | ... | ... | ... | 0 |
| Other nuisances | ... | ... | ... | 0 |
| †Sanitary accommodation { insufficient | No | | | |
| { unsuitable or defective | | | | |
| { not separate for sexes | | | | |
| <i>Offences under the Factory and Workshop Act :—</i> | | | | |
| Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse (S. 101) | ... | ... | ... | 0 |
| Breach of special sanitary requirement for bakehouses (SS. 97 to 100) | ... | ... | ... | 0 |
| Failure as regards lists of outworkers (S. 107) | ? | ... | ... | 0 |
| Giving out work to { unwholesome (S. 108) .. | ... | ... | ... | 0 |
| be done in premises { which are { infected (S. 110) .. | ... | ... | ... | 0 |
| Allowing wearing apparel to be made in premises infected by scarlet fever or small-pox (S. 109) | ... | ... | ... | 0 |
| Other offences | ... | ... | ... | 0 |
| Total | 3 | 2 | 0 | 0 |

* Including those specified in Sections 2, 3, 7 and 8, of the Factory Act as remediable under the Public Health Acts.

† For districts not in London state here whether Section 22 of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890, has been adopted by the District Council; and if so what standard of sufficiency and suitability of sanitary accommodation for persons employed in factories and workshops has been enforced.

3.—OTHER MATTERS.

| Class. | Number. |
|---|-------------------------|
| Matters notified to H.M. Inspectors of Factories :— | |
| Failure to affix Abstract of the Factory and Workshop Act (S. 133) | 0 |
| Action taken in matters referred by H.M. Inspector as remediable under the Public Health Acts, but not under the Factory Act (S. 5) { | 0 |
| Notified by H.M. Inspector | |
| Reports (of action taken) sent to H.M. Inspectors. | 0 |
| Other | 0 |
| Underground Pakehouses (S. 101) :— | |
| In use during 1903 | 0 |
| Certificates granted { in 1903 | ... |
| in 1904 | ... |
| In use at the end of 1904 | ... |
| Homework :— | |
| <i>Lists of Outworkers*</i> (S. 107) :— | Number of |
| | Lists. Outworkers |
| Lists received | 5 55 |
| Addresses of outworkers { forwarded to other Authorities | |
| received from other Authorities | |
| <i>Homework in unwholesome or infected premises :—</i> | |
| | Wearing Apparel. Other. |
| Notices prohibiting homework in unwholesome premises (S. 108) | |
| Cases of infectious disease notified in homeworkers premises | 2 ... |
| Orders prohibiting homework in infected premises (S. 110) | 2 verbal ... |
| Workshops on the Register (S. 131) at the end of 1904. | |
| 24 Bakehouses | 24 |
| 10 Tailors, Dressmakers, etc. | 10 |
| Total number of workshops on Register | 34 |

* The List should be received twice in the year. The year's figures required in the table are then obtained by adding together the two half-yearly totals.